

REMARKS

The Official Action dated September 9, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claim 28 has been canceled without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Accordingly, claims 7-9, 13 and 18-27 are presently pending in the instant application.

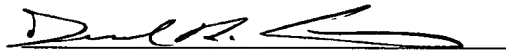
Initially, Applicant wishes to acknowledge, with thanks, the Examiner's indication in paragraph 5 that claims 7-9, 13 and 18-26 are allowable over the prior art of record. It is further noted that the Office Action Summary and paragraph 1 of the Official Action indicate that claim 27 is likewise allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, in that only claim 28 has been rejected by the Examiner, it is presumed that in fact claims 7-9, 13 and 18-27 are allowable over the prior art of record and, with the cancellation of claim 28, indication of such in a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

With respect to paragraph 2 of the Official Action, Claim 28 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brown et al. As can be seen from the foregoing amendments, claim 28 has been cancelled in its entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Accordingly, further discussion with respect to the rejection thereof is no longer believed to be warranted.

Therefore, in view of foregoing, it is respectfully requested rejection of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 7-9, 13 and 18-27 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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